



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Approves New Subject Matter Programs for Teachers

SACRAMENTO - Prospective teachers will have expanded opportunities to earn single subject teaching credentials as a result of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing's recent action.

At its August 9, 2007 meeting in Sacramento, the Commission approved the following new programs:

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| • San Jose State University (San Jose, CA) | Mathematics |
| • California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA) | Mathematics |
| • California State University, Long Beach (Long Beach, CA) | Spanish |

Over the next decade, school districts will face teacher shortages in all subject areas due to large-scale teacher retirements. Universities and local school districts continue to identify ways to fill the gap and to meet local needs. One way to ensure that teachers are available to teach the needed subject areas is for universities and local education agencies to offer more subject matter programs for teaching credentials.

All subject matter programs are based on specified criteria and standards and are reviewed by a panel of experts in the subject. The expert panel is made up of representatives of K-12 public schools and university faculty. The review process includes early technical assistance, review, and requests for additional information or suggestions for program changes. When the program meets the criteria and standards, the panel recommends approval to the Commission.

Single subject teaching credentials are most often used in middle schools and high schools. They authorize teaching the subject named on the credential in a "departmentalized" setting. Single subject teaching credential candidates may meet the subject matter requirement by completing an approved subject matter program or by passing a Commission-approved subject matter examination. The approved subject matter programs are part of an academic baccalaureate program and consist of approximately 45 semester units. Teachers may have more than one subject listed on their credential as long as they meet the requirements. They must also complete all other credentialing requirements such as student teaching.

Attached are descriptions of how each program is meeting its regional educational concerns and contact information for a more detailed program description.

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NEW SUBJECT MATTER PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS
Approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing
August 9, 2007

San Jose State University: Mathematics

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, San Jose State has a particular challenge in attracting well-qualified credential candidates in mathematics. The resurging economy in this area brings strong competition for students choosing mathematics as their field of interest. The need for math teachers is particularly great in low performing schools in the San Jose area; especially those teachers who are also bilingual in Spanish or Vietnamese.

San Jose State collaborates with over 30 school districts in the San Jose area through funded projects and a Mathematics Assessment Collaborative that provides performance assessment in grades 2-10. To serve the specific needs of middle schools, the university is developing a 32-unit program that would meet subject matter requirements to teach introductory mathematics, including algebra.

The San Jose State University (SJSU) Mathematics Department believes that an effective mathematics teacher must have a deep, broad and connected understanding of mathematics. Students are expected to master logical thinking and understand mathematics so that they can use it in their future lives and careers. The SJSU mathematics program infuses technology throughout the program, including sophisticated graphing calculation, software problem solving, and computer programming as a mathematical function. A capstone course provides the context for secondary school mathematics teaching with an emphasis on inductive reasoning.

This new program will enroll 8 students for fall of 2007.

For further program information please contact: Joanne Rossi Becker (408) 924-5112

California Lutheran University: Mathematics

California Lutheran University's geographic service area includes southern California, particularly Ventura County. Over the last six years the math department has attracted an even number of male and female students; 20 percent underrepresented minorities. The University provides early field work for their teacher candidates finding that this "real life" experience within the education community is a powerful retention tool for the program.

California Lutheran partners with several school districts in the Los Angeles area including Los Angeles Unified, Los Virginis Unified, Moorpark Unified, Simi Valley Unified, Ventural Unified and the Oxnard Union Unified.

The mathematics program at California Lutheran University seeks to develop self-confident mathematical thinkers and communicators with a life-long desire for learning. The subject matter preparation program is specifically designed to ensure that students attain the background and

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competence necessary to teach mathematics in public secondary schools. Candidates are required to complete two diverse field experiences in K-12 classrooms to establish their goal for becoming teachers and connections to middle school and high school curriculum are made within each course when materials are introduced.

The new math program will begin with 7 students and plans to expand to 10 by winter 2008.

For further program information please contact: Karrolyne Fogel, (805) 493-3294

California State University, Long Beach: Spanish

The CSULB program partners with many of the area's school districts for the candidates' student teaching including, ABC, Anaheim, Capistrano, Centinella Valley, Downey, Huntington Beach, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Redondo Beach, Saddleback and Torrance.

The California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Subject Matter Program in Spanish is designed to prepare teachers with greater understanding of the Spanish speaking world through study of the Spanish language, culture, literature, film, music, and the arts. The Spanish program targets all Bachelor of Arts students who wish to teach at the secondary level regardless of their background. Spanish majors in the undergraduate program represent a strong pool of potential credential candidates. CSULB has found that they have a steady and increasing number of students who are interested earning a high school teaching credential.

Enrollment jumped 52% in the Spanish program between 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 resulting in the opening of second sections of introduction to teaching courses. These additional sections represent the first time the department has ever had two concurrent sections in each of these two courses. The program expects to enroll 32 students this semester.

For further program information please contact: Jean-Jacques Jura, (562) 985-2200 or Karen Hakim-Butt (562) 985-5642

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